

The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 18, 2005

1. The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) convened on Jan 18, 2005, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:20 AM by the President, COL(R) Thom Tuckey. Members in attendance were:

LTC(R) Jim Daskal
CSM(R) Jim Hussey
Mr. Earnest Johnson
COL(R) Bill Mannel

Mr. Terry Smith
COL(R) Thom Tuckey
COL(R) John Vigna

2. Old Business.

- a. Veterans Groups Dinner. The Mayor has authorized planning for the next issues/update dinner for the representatives of local veterans organizations. The dinner will be held in late May or early June after the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list is released (16 May). We will expand the invitees to include area organizations in surrounding communities such as Thomson, Wrens, Waynesboro, North Augusta, and Aiken.

- b. Committee Membership. COL(R) Tuckey will prepare letters for the mayor's signature inviting veteran organization District Representatives to join the Mayor's Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee. If the primary focus of the committee is to provide support and a voice to area veterans it is important to have adequate representation of area veterans on the committee.

- c. Veterans Cemetery. Indications are that given the close proximity of approved veteran's cemeteries in GA and SC it is unlikely a Federal or State veterans cemetery will be established at Ft Gordon. However, there is some confusion over the latest status of the land identified at Ft Gordon and the request submitted to the State. Mr. Smith will research and report at the next meeting.

3. New Business.

- a. Charter/Goals. COL(R) Tuckey will rewrite the MVAC Charter and Goals to reflect changes to the committee and recent guidance from the Mayor. New draft charter and goals will be staffed with the committee for comment before submitting for the mayor's approval.

- b. The committee proposed hosting a medical forum for area veterans in the fall of 2005. Senator Johnny Isakson, who serves on the Veteran's Affairs Committee, the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, the Commanding General of Eisenhower Army Medical Center, the Director of the Georgia Veteran's Administration, and the Director of the Augusta Veteran's Administration would be key invitees.

c. LTC(R) Daskal recommended that members be provided nametags to be worn at area activities which would emphasize the Mayor's interest in area veterans.

d. The committee proposed co-sponsoring another area salute to the military in conjunction with a GreenJackets game. As with last year, the committee would solicit support from area veteran's organizations and JROTC units for the pre-game festivities. (The last home game with fireworks is a week later this year - September 3rd, Labor Day weekend.)

e. The committee will look into area ROTC/JROTC activities to review committee/mayoral support for these programs.

4. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for February 8, at 8:20 AM, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Jan 28, 2004:

Thom Tuckey
President
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

CF: Mayor Young
COL Adams, Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Ms. Pat Buchholz, Office of the Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Each active MVAC member